

The Water We Want

Promoting and Caring for Our Water Heritage

Youth Prize Contest – 8th Edition (2026-27)

<https://thewaterwewant.watermuseums.net/>

Call for Contributions

The Youth Prize Contest The Water We Want (TWWW) aims at exploring our multifaceted water legacies - natural and cultural, tangible and intangible - from the perspective of young people.

With the 8th competition, running from September 2026 to April 2027, the Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU+NET) wishes to strengthen water sustainability education and awareness efforts by engaging the youth as storytellers and narrators of our “liquid future”.

How can we inspire new perceptions about water and new ways to be more respectful of nature? What small-scale but revolutionary gestures can contribute to water heritage reevaluation and improve the sustainability of all water uses?

The Youth Prize Contest

This contest aims to strengthen the visibility of the educational activities implemented by water museums and promote them worldwide. School students and young participants are encouraged to use their creativity to propose responsible and more farsighted water uses.

Any school or teacher interested in participating must:

- Contact any water museum affiliated with the Global Network (WAMU+NET). You can find a full list of WAMU+NET members here: www.watermuseums.net/network/
- Engage students in educational activities focusing on water-related issues (only fresh water, excluding oceans) and SDGs by producing original drawings, videos, and other media.
- By **Friday 16 April 2027**, submit the work to any museum or institution affiliated with WAMU+NET (works sent to the WAMU+NET Secretariat are not eligible).

Topic of the contest

All submitted artworks must focus on freshwater (*excluding salt waters and oceans*) and issues related to biodiversity, climate change, and water legacies: both natural and cultural, tangible and intangible heritages.

Participants

The contest is for schools, learning institutions (both formal and informal) and civil society organisations worldwide and is limited to the following age categories:

1. students aged 6 to 9 (**primary education**)
2. students aged 10 to 12 (**primary education**)
3. students aged 13 to 18 (**secondary education**)
4. students aged 19 to 25 (**higher education**)

Submissions

Only entries of the following categories are admitted into the contest:

1. **Drawings** (either individual or classwork compositions). Open to ages 6 to 9; 10 to 12; 13 to 18;
2. **Videos and Other Media** (either individual or classwork compositions; this category includes videos, pictures, single-page posters, poems, soundscapes and songs, including the reinterpretation of traditional music related to water). Open to ages 10 to 12; 13 to 18; 19 to 25.

Only one work (between drawings, videos or other media) can be submitted by a single classroom / individual student to one WAMU+NET member.

	Category Drawings	Category Videos and other media
Students aged 6 to 9	✓	✗
Students aged 10 to 12	✓	✓
Students aged 13 to 18	✓	✓
Students aged 19 to 25	✗	✓

Registration Form, Terms and Conditions

By **16 April 2027**, all submissions and works must be emailed or sent by post to only one water museum affiliated with WAMU+NET, including:

- A. the **Registration Form**;
- B. one **entry** (only one type of work among the submissions listed above).

The Registration Form also includes the Terms and Conditions to participate in the contest. Each entry must be submitted **with a concise title and a short description** (max. 200 words). It is mandatory to include English subtitles in all submitted works (including writings and dialogues). **Works without English translation will be excluded from the contest.** The text must be typed in an editable format. It is kindly

required to take the utmost care to ensure that the information provided is correct, particularly the names of schools and pupils.

From this edition onwards, the Registration Form includes a new section entitled 'INFORMATION ON THE TEACHING PROGRAMME', which has been created to gather information about the teaching programme that led to the creation of the submitted work. Teachers may describe the programme as follows: type of teaching project (title, objectives, outcomes), number of pupils/classes/teachers involved, duration of the project, any funding from sources outside the school, and any other information you wish to share (max. 200 words). **This new section is entirely optional and not mandatory.** The information provided will be used only for statistical purposes of UNESCO. Should UNESCO decide to publish a report on the teaching programmes that led to the creation of the artworks, you will be contacted at a later stage to provide further information. If you are interested in this initiative, please enter your details.

Selection of the final entries that will be included in the online 8th Digital Exhibition 2027

Among all the works received, each museum or institution affiliated with WAMU+NET can select up to 6 entries: 1 entry per category and per students' age group. These selected entries will be included in the 8th online Digital Exhibition 2027.

Awards

All works preselected by museums are entitled to receive **awards and special mentions**. There will be 6 awards (one per age group and one per category, as shown in Table 1). The announcement of the **final winners** will be made in June during the webinar organised with representatives of UNESCO-IHP, educators, and museums from all over the world.

Final winners will be selected by an **International Jury** made of members of the Advisory Committee of the WAMU+NET Network, independent educators and representatives of the UNESCO water family. Winners will be announced in June through a dedicated webinar, when the young finalists will have the opportunity to present their works to WAMU+NET museums and members from all over the world.

The best 6 artworks related to categories shown in Table 1 will receive a Cash Award of 250 € and a Certificate of Award signed by the President and the Executive Director of the Global Network of Water Museums.

Previous contests and winners

The shortlisted and winning artworks of past editions of the TWW contest are available on our [website](https://thewaterwewant.watermuseums.net/) and may be considered by participating schools, students, and teachers as a source of inspiration for developing their own artworks: <https://thewaterwewant.watermuseums.net/>

Important Deadlines

16 April 2027: Schools submit the students' artworks to the WAMU+NET water museum of their choice.

29 April 2027: Each WAMU+NET water museum submits max. 6 shortlisted works to WAMU+NET Secretariat. Videos and communication campaigns

Two video presentations of the campaign The Water We Want are available:

- Watch here the promo video of the campaign TWWWW
- Watch here the full video of the Youth Prize Contest
- Explore our communication campaign on Facebook with 22 short videos

Contacts

For more information, contact any water museum/institution affiliated with WAMU+NET:
<https://www.watermuseums.net/network/>

or write to: thewaterwewant@watermuseums.net

The Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU+NET) is a “flagship initiative” of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme of UNESCO aimed at raising awareness of our precious water heritage. The Global Network seeks to find solutions to present-day water challenges by connecting past and present water management practices to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). WAMU+NET promotes the fundamental values of any kind of inherited water asset, both natural and cultural, tangible and intangible. All WAMU+NET members are engaged in promoting new water ethics, reconnecting humanity to the heritage of water, including its social, cultural, artistic and spiritual dimensions:

www.watermuseums.net

All members commit to disseminating the TWWW contest as an integral part of their education activities through newsletters and all kinds of communications in order to foster participation and increase awareness on our inherited water legacies and our most precious source of life.